

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are pending

Claims 1-6 are rejected.

Claims 7-20 are cancelled.

Claims 1 and 4 are currently amended.

Claims 21-28 are new.

Claims 7-20 were previously cancelled.

The applicant requests reconsideration and allowance in view of the amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Claims 1, 3, 4 and 6 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,454,452 to Sasagawa et al (“Sasagawa”). The applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

The applicant has amended claim 1 to recite, among other limitations, a plurality of transparent element structures having first and second surfaces associated with the plurality of notches so that the first surfaces are within the plurality of notches and the second surfaces are outside the plurality of notches, wherein a refractive index of the plurality of transparent element structures is different from that of the light guide plate. Support for this amendment may be found, for example, in the Specification, FIGS. 3 and 4.

The Examiner rejects claim 1 by asserting that Sasagawa discloses transparent element structures, which may be the air included in the v-shaped notches 4 of Sasagawa, FIG. 2B, for example. But claim 1 now requires that the transparent element structures have first and second surfaces, wherein the first surfaces are within the plurality of notches and the second surfaces are outside the plurality of notches. Since the Examiner relies on Sasagawa to teach transparent element structures by considering air to qualify as such, Sasagawa fails to teach the transparent element structures of amended claim 1 that require surfaces both within and outside the notches. Air does not include such surfaces. Thus Sasagawa fails to teach each and every limitation of claim 1.

The applicant has amended claim 4 with limitations similar to those added to claim 1. Thus, for at least the same reasons discussed above, Sasagawa fails to teach each and every limitation of claim 4.

New Claims

The applicant has added claims 21-26. Each new claim is supported by the originally filed claims or specification.

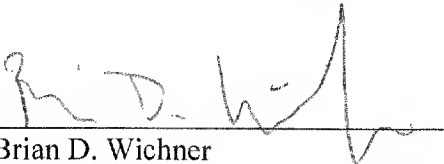
Assignee notes that additional patentable distinctions between the cited references and the rejected claims exist; however, the foregoing is believed sufficient to address the Examiner's rejections. Likewise, failure of the Assignee to respond to a position taken by the Examiner is not an indication of acceptance or acquiescence of the Examiner's position. Instead, it is believed that the Examiner's positions are rendered moot by the foregoing and, therefore, it is believed not necessary to respond to every position taken by the Examiner with which Assignee does not agree.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of the claims of the application as amended is requested. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Respectfully submitted,

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